

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method to deploy one or more data processing systems, comprising:
 2 capturing deployment information from a reference data processing system to
 3 deploy on said one or more data processing systems, wherein said deployment
 4 information is stored in a memory;
 5 selecting said one or more data processing systems;
 6 selecting a package of said deployment information to be deployed on said one
 7 or more data processing systems; and
 8 intelligently deploying said one or more data processing systems upon receiving
 9 a command from a user, wherein said intelligently deploying is based on said
 10 deployment information that was captured, and includes referencing said package of
 11 said deployment information that is stored in said memory.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information in said memory is
 2 stored on a dedicated data processing system connected to a computer network.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein capturing said deployment information
 2 includes refreshing said deployment information.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein capturing said deployment information
 2 includes referencing deployment information stored from a previous instance of
 3 deployment of one or more data processing systems.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information includes
 2 information selected from the group of information consisting of: disk drive partitions,
 3 disk drive settings, disk array controller settings, PCI device settings, non-PCI device
 4 settings, firmware settings, fixed code settings, operating system information,
 5 application software package information, user settings, personalization information, or
 6 configuration information.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information includes a
2 hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and
3 said intelligently deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on a
4 data processing system of said one or more data processing systems before software
5 image deployment, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said
6 configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information includes a
2 hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and
3 said intelligently deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on a
4 data processing system of said one or more data processing systems that has already
5 been configured, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said
6 configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

1 8. A computer network to facilitate the intelligent deployment of one or more data
2 processing systems, comprising:

3 one or more data processing systems to be intelligently deployed;

4 one or more reference data processing systems containing deployment
5 information;

6 a means for transmission capable of conveying said deployment information to
7 said one or more data processing systems; and

8 a dedicated data processing system containing deployment information copied
9 from said one or more reference data processing systems, wherein said dedicated data
10 processing system conveys to said one or more data processing systems over said
11 means for transmission a package of deployment information selected from said
12 deployment information, which is based on said deployment information that was
13 captured, upon receiving a command from a user.

1 9. The computer network of claim 8, further comprising:

2 a memory in said dedicated data processing system to store said package of said
3 deployment information.

1 10. The computer network of claim 8, wherein capturing said deployment
2 information includes referencing deployment information stored from a previous
3 instance of intelligent deployment of one or more data processing systems.

1 11. The computer network of claim 8, wherein said deployment information
2 includes information selected from the group of information consisting of: disk drive
3 partitions, disk drive settings, disk array controller settings, PCI device settings, non-
4 PCI device settings, firmware settings, fixed code settings, operating system
5 information, application software package information, user settings, personalization
6 information, or configuration information.

1 12. The computer network of claim 8, wherein said deployment information
2 includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said
3 configuration, and said computer network can update said hardware portion of said
4 configuration on a data processing system of said one or more data processing systems
5 before software image deployment, without destructively modifying said remaining
6 portion of said configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

1 13. The computer network of claim 8, wherein said deployment information
2 includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said
3 configuration, and said computer network can update said hardware portion of said
4 configuration on a data processing system of said one or more data processing systems
5 that has already been configured, without destructively modifying said remaining
6 portion of said configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

1 14. A computer program embodied on electronically-readable media, containing
2 instructions to facilitate the deployment of one or more data processing systems,
3 comprising:
4 a program code segment to capture deployment information from a reference
5 data processing system to deploy on said one or more data processing systems, wherein
6 said deployment information is stored in a memory;
7 a program code segment to select said one or more data processing systems;
8 a program code segment to select a package of said deployment information to
9 be deployed on said one or more data processing systems; and
10 a program code segment to intelligently deploy said one or more data
11 processing systems upon receiving a command from a user, including program code to
12 reference said package of said deployment information that is stored in said memory.

1 15. The computer program of claim 14, wherein said memory that stores said
2 package of said deployment information is included in a dedicated data processing
3 system.

1 16. The computer program of claim 14, wherein said program code segment to
2 capture deployment information from a reference data processing system to deploy on
3 said one or more data processing systems is executed on a data processing system
4 coupled to a network of data processing systems.

1 17. The computer program of claim 14, wherein said program code segment to
2 select one or more data processing systems to be included in said one or more data
3 processing systems is executed on a data processing system coupled to a network of
4 data processing systems.

1 18. The computer program of claim 14, wherein said program code segment to
2 select a package of said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more
3 data processing systems is executed on a data processing system coupled to a network
4 of data processing systems.

1 19. The computer program of claim 14, wherein said program code segment to
2 intelligently deploy said one or more data processing systems upon receiving a
3 command from a user interacts with a network of data processing systems.

1 20. The computer program of claim 14, wherein said electronically-readable
2 memory is a non-volatile memory selected from the group of non-volatile memories
3 consisting of: a magnetic disk drive, a magneto-optic disk drive, a floppy diskette, a
4 compact disc, and a flash memory.